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Date Printed: 12/31/1997 DOC_NUMBER: 93KAMPAL02244 CHANNEL: n/a 287
FileName : .../t930353/aaaaboix.tel

SECRET RELEASED IN PART

B1, 1.5(D)

(E283)

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ACTION AF-01

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INFO	LOG-00	CIAE-00	C-01	OASY-00	DODE-00	EUR-01	HA-09
	H-01	TEDE-00	INR-00	L-03	ADS-00	NSAE-00	NSCE-00
	OMB-01	PA-01	PM-02	PRS-01	P-01	RPCS-01	SNP-00
	SP-00	SS-00	TRSE-00	T-00	USIE-00	RPE-01	/024W

-----AA5B9F 230903Z /38

P 230845Z MAR 93
FM AMEMBASSY KAMPALA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5891
INFO AMEMBASSY KIGALI PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY LILONGWE
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
AMEMBASSY HARARE
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
USCINCEUR VAHINGEN GM

S E C R E T KAMPALA 02244

NOFORN

LILONGWE FOR DAO LTC KELLER

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR

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TAGS: PREL, PINS, MOPS, RW, UG
SUBJECT: RUMOR OF IMMINENT NRA INTERVENTION IN RWANDA

1. SECRET - ENTIRE TEXT.

2. ON MARCH 21, [REDACTED] TOLD
THE USIS DIRECTOR THAT A NATIONAL RESISTANCE ARMY
OFFICER HAD TOLD HIM THAT THE NRA WAS PREPARING TO
INVADE RWANDA. POLOFF AND USIS DIRECTOR SPOKE WITH
[REDACTED] ON MARCH 22 TO GET ADDITIONAL DETAILS. [REDACTED]

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE

REVIEW AUTHORITY:
ROBERT R. STRAND

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TOLD THEM THAT HIS SOURCE WAS A LONG-TIME FRIEND WHO WAS NOW AN NRA LIEUTENANT BASED IN MBARARA. THE SAME SOURCE, HE CLAIMED, HAD ADVISED HIM IN ADVANCE OF THE RWANDAN PATRIOTIC FRONT INVASION OF RWANDA IN OCTOBER 1990. [] DID, IN FACT, WARN THE PREVIOUS USIS DIRECTOR THAT THE RWANDAN PATRIOTIC FRONT WAS PLANNING TO MOUNT AN INVASION.)

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3. THE LIEUTENANT (WHOM [] DELCINED TO IDENTIFY) REPORTEDLY TOLD [] THAT THE NRA HAD BEEN "QUIETLY MOBILIZING ACTIVE UNITS DURING THE LAST FEW DAYS AND CALLING UP DEMOBILIZED TROOPS IN MBARARA AND KAMPALA" TO FIGHT ALONGSIDE THE RPF IN RWANDA. HE SAID THAT THEY INTENDED TO INVADE RWANDA ON TWO FRONTS: BETWEEN KISORO AND KABALE ON UGANDA'S SOUTHERN BORDER, AND THROUGH TANZANIA. THE INVASION WAS TO OCCUR "WITHIN DAYS" TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE OPPORTUNITY OFFERED BY THE DEPARTURE OF FRENCH TROOPS. KIGALI WAS ITS OBJECTIVE. THE LIEUTENANT CLAIMED (IMPLAUSIBLY) THAT THE NRA WAS PLANNING TO COMMIT "100,000" TROOPS AND ARMOR TO THE OFFENSIVE. (COMMENT: CURRENT NRA

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STRENGTH IS ESTIMATED AT 60,000 PLUS OR MINUS 10,000. END COMMENT) AS POLOFF'S SCEPTICISM TURNED TO INCREDULITY, [] SAID THAT "MANY PEOPLE" HAD SEEN NEW "TANKS" -- ACTUALLY ARMORED PERSONNEL CARRIERS, FROM HIS DESCRIPTION -- DRIVING WEST TOWARD MBARARA AT THE END OF FEBRUARY. HE AGREED THAT THE FIGURE OF 100,000 WAS HIGH, BUT SAID THAT IT WAS THE NUMBER THE LIEUTENANT USED.

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4. COMMENT: WHILE SEPARATE REPORTING INDICATES NRA FORCES ALONG THE UGANDA/RWANDA BORDER AREA WERE PLACED ON ALERT IN EARLY-MID FEBRUARY, AN IMMINENT INVASION OF RWANDA BY THE UGANDAN ARMED FORCES IS NEITHER FEASIBLE NOR PLAUSIBLE. PRESIDENT MUSEVENI IS WELL AWARE OF THE CATASTROPHIC IMPACT A UGANDAN INVASION WOULD HAVE ON HIS RELATIONS WITH THE WEST. THE NRA IS NOT CAPABLE OF MOUNTING A LARGE-SCALE INVASION AT SHORT NOTICE, NOR DOES IT HAVE THE MOTIVATION TO DO SO, NOR COULD IT CONCEAL ITS PREPARATIONS IF IT WERE TO TRY. THE FIGURE OF 100,000 UGANDAN TROOPS EXCEEDS EVEN THE TOTAL PRE-DEMOBILIZATION THE STRENGTH OF THE NRA. IF DEMOBILIZED TROOPS WERE BEING RECALLED TO SERVICE, IT

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WOULD BE ALL OVER THE NEWSPAPERS. ONE WEEK BEFORE
[REDACTED] WAS RECEIVING THIS "NEWS." POLOFF AND VISITING

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** NOFORN
*** Current Classification *** SECRET

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